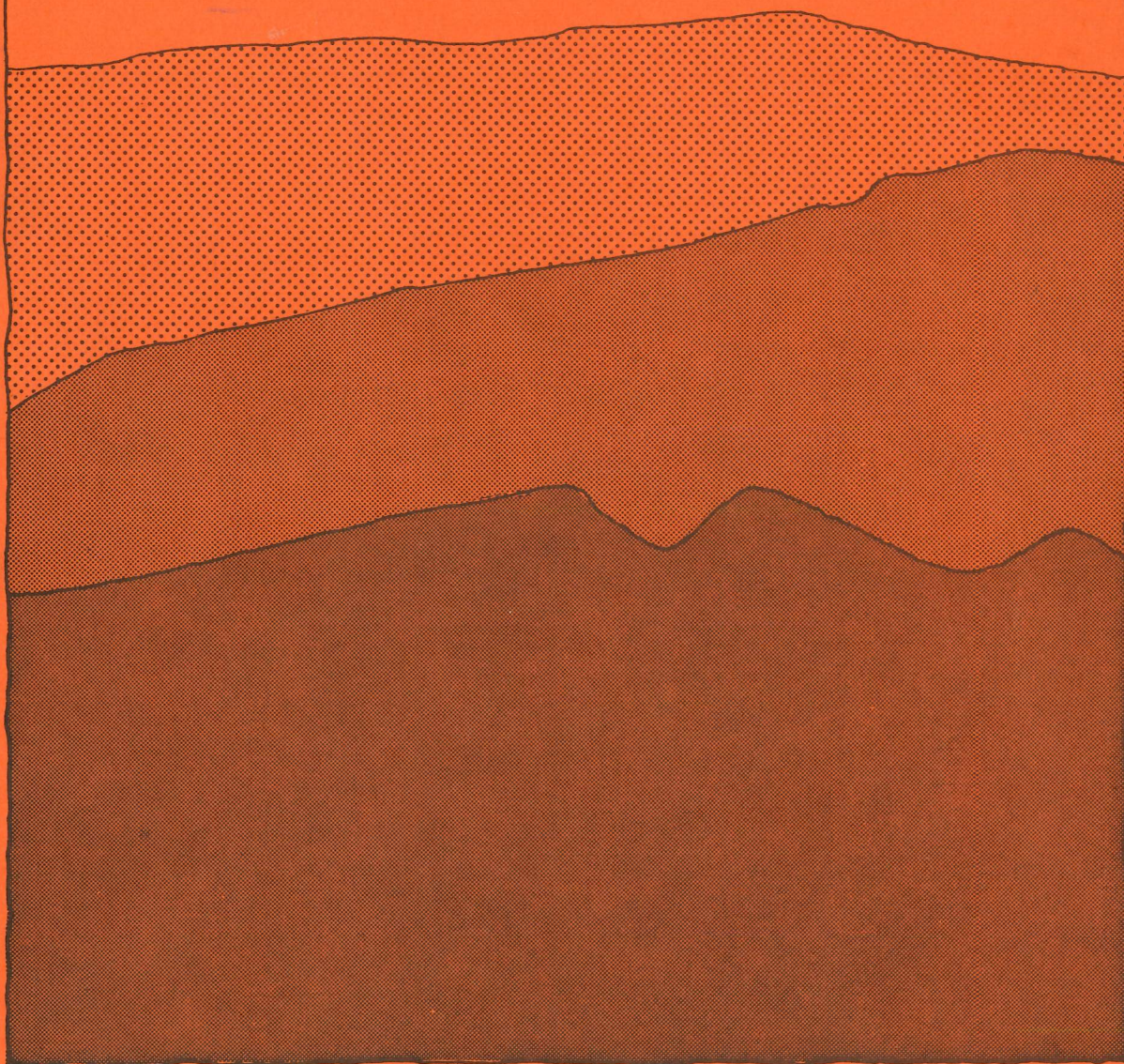


GOSPEL HUMP






GOSPEL-HUMP FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR WILDERNESS STUDY
AND LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nezperce and Payette National Forests

Report No. USDA-FS-FES (Adm) R1(17) 78-4

**Gospel-Hump
Vicinity Map**

-  NEZPERCE FOREST
Roadless Areas
-  Wilderness Areas
-  Primitive Areas

Scale of miles



N

Spokane

195

Washington
Idaho

Montana
Idaho

Missoula

Clearwater
River

Orofino

Lewiston

95

12

Lochsa River

Selway Bitterroot
Wilderness

Grangeville

S. Fk.

Salmon

Clearwater R.

14

GOSPEL-
HUMP

Salmon River

Riggins

95

Idaho Primitive Area

S. Fk. Salmon R.

Mc Call

Mid. Fk. Salmon River

THE GOSPEL-HUMP

THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
FOR WILDERNESS STUDY AND PLANNING

THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nezperce and Payette National Forests

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USDA FOREST SERVICE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
Gospel-Hump Wilderness Study Area and Land Management Plan
USDA-FS-R1(17) FES (Adm) R1-78-4
Prepared in Accordance With
Section 102(2)(C) of Public Law 91-190

Summary Sheet

- I Draft () Final (X)
- II USDA Forest Service, Nezperce and Payette National Forests
- III Administrative (X) Legislative ()
- IV Description of Action

The Forest Service is announcing herein (1) a land management plan for 289,034 acres, and (2) a wilderness study recommendation for 30,830 acres.

The Draft Environmental Statement spoke to a wilderness study acreage of 236,830 acres. This does not mean that the wilderness study in the Draft has been reduced by 206,000 acres in the Final. It simply is not necessary to deal with the 206,000 acres since it has now been classified as wilderness by the Endangered American Wilderness Act.*

Part One of the document incorporates in an Environmental Statement the selection of an area recommended for wilderness and a recommended alternative for the land management plan. The proposed land management plan for the Gospel-Hump Planning Unit is displayed as Part Two. Part Three is a detailed Appendix containing supportive data.

The area originally recommended for wilderness study was chosen from adjoining roadless portions of six planning units on the Nezperce Forest and one unit on the Payette Forest. Two areas were evaluated, the Gospel-Hump Roadless Area and the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill Roadless Area. The value of other resources was compared with the value of the area for wilderness study during the evaluation. The additional study proposed for the selected area will result in a recommendation by the

*It is really more complicated than this. The Forest Service Study spoke to a total of 217,830 acres for wilderness study, 30,830 acres of which were on the Payette National Forest, and 187,000 acres which were covered on the Nezperce National Forest. The remaining 19,000 acres were outside the study, but included by the Endangered American Wilderness Act.

Secretary of Agriculture to the President as to whether all, part, or none of the area should receive classification as Wilderness.

Allocation and direction in the Land Management Plan would result in an initial programmed sell level of 6.7 MMBF of timber utilizing a combination of conventional, skyline, and aerial yarding techniques. The protection of anadromous fish habitat was a major consideration during the planning process. Direction was developed to insure that favorable habitat conditions would be available for increasing returns of steelhead and chinook salmon as downstream escapement problems are lessened.

- V Principal environmental impacts resulting from the recommendations in this document are associated with timber harvest and culture, treatment of big game winter ranges, ORV use and wilderness. Development is planned for only a small portion (11%) of the planning unit, but will occur in areas that now are essentially roadless and undeveloped. Timber harvest and road construction will result in alteration of the natural landscape and increasing soil movement. Hazards and resource conflicts relating to specific projects will be examined through an environmental impact analysis prior to implementation.

The plan provides for a sustained yield of both commodity and amenity resources from the unit that will allow for employment and other benefits to the local economy and nation, while maintaining a quality environment.

- VI Seven basic alternatives were considered for selection of an area for wilderness study. Briefly, these alternatives are:

- A. A core area north of the Salmon River that includes Gospel Mountain and Buffalo Hump.
- B. That area proposed for immediate wilderness classification by H.R. 3454.
- C. Includes the area covered by Alternatives A and B north of the Salmon River, plus much of the breaklands south of the Salmon River.
- D. The northern boundary would extend to the South Fork Clearwater River, with the south boundary as in C.
- E. The total Gospel-Hump contiguous roadless area.
- E2. The Gospel-Hump contiguous roadless area plus the Dixie Summit-Nut Hill roadless area.
- F. No area proposed for wilderness study.

For the Gospel-Hump Planning Unit, the alternatives from which the Land Management Plan was selected featured the following design criteria:

1. Maximize timber harvest by a combination of logging systems, sediment constrained at 150% of normal, maximize net present worth, wilderness study at 187,000 acres.
2. Maximize timber harvest by aerial logging systems, sediment constrained at 150% of normal, maximize net present worth, wilderness study at 187,000 acres.
3. Maximize timber harvest by all systems, sediment unconstrained, maximize net present worth, wilderness study at 187,000 acres.
4. Maximize timber harvest by nonaerial logging systems, sediment constrained at 150% of normal, maximize net present worth, wilderness study at 187,000 acres.

Note:

An important piece of legislation was pending when the Draft EIS was written for the Gospel-Hump, and it has since become law. This law is the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, and its provisions apply to most of, but not all of this planning area.

Section 4 of the Endangered Wilderness Act speaks to the Gospel-Hump area and provides (1) instant wilderness of 206,000 acres, (2) a Development Area of 45,000 acres, and (3) a Management Area of 92,000 acres.

The requirements for wilderness management are established by law, and will receive only peripheral discussion in this document.

Management of the Development Areas will be prescribed by this plan, where this plan overlaps such areas.

Management of those areas outside the area covered by legislation, but which are spoken to by this plan will be directed by the prescriptions and standards in this plan.

Prescriptions and standards set by this plan within the "Management Areas" must be considered as suggestions only. This is because the law requires additional study of the development areas. Therefore, if the reader has concern for these areas, he or she is advised to keep in contact with this study. The study proposal will be made public shortly, and will be implemented with full public involvement. The duration of the study as set by law is four years.

Appendix 17 provides a detailed explanation of the Endangered American Wilderness Act and a map, which has not yet been verified as the official map.

VII Consultation With Others

In November 1977, approximately 400 brochures presenting management alternatives were distributed to various agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals. A response form was included. Eighty-five responses were received, requesting either a complete Draft Environmental Impact Statement or a synopsis of the Statement.

The following agencies, organizations and individuals received copies of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement for review and comment. See page 147 for their responses.

Federal

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VIII A Draft Statement was made available to the Environmental Protection Agency on January 9, 1978.

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G L O S S A R Y

ABBREVIATIONS

Acre Eq. - Equivalent acres covered by an activity. For example, if 70% of the timber cover was removed from 300 acres, it would be equivalent to total removal from 210 acres.

AUM - The amount of forage required to support a 1000 lb. animal for one month or 720 pounds of air-dried forage.

M - Thousand.

MM - Million.

MMBF - Million board feet of timber.

MRVD - Thousand recreation visitor day. A recreation visitor day is equivalent to one person visiting for twelve hours.

ORV - Off road vehicles such as jeeps, motorbikes, snowmobiles, or other vehicles designed for use on other than surfaced roads.

PAOT - People at one time, used to reflect the capacity of developed recreation sites.

V.D. - Visitor day (see above, MRVD).

S.R. - Summer range, or those areas occupied by wildlife during the summer months.

W.R. - Winter range.

DEFINITIONS

Anadromous Fish - Species including steelhead trout and chinook salmon which mature in the sea, and migrate into streams to spawn.

Environmental Impact Statement - The version of the statement of environmental effects required for major Federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and released to the public and other agencies.

Environmental Analysis Report - A process that generates knowledge of environmental and ecological impacts, and evaluates their consequences before activities are undertaken.

Grazing Allotment - An area administered for the grazing of domestic livestock in conjunction with other resource activities.

Land Type Association - A classification level of the land system inventory that delineates areas in similar stages of development which reflect hazards and/or capabilities. The important criteria are soils, landforms, and association of vegetative habitat types.

Matrix - A tabular arrangement of the known resources of a land unit against the kinds of management activities that could be imposed on the unit so as to show how each resource would react to each imposed activity or to a combination of management activities that might be imposed on it.

Multidisciplinary - A planning method where each person is assigned only a portion of the problem and their individual solutions are combined to provide the complete solution.

National Forest Funds - Money collected as payment for use of National Forest resources, such as timber, grazing or special uses. The counties in which the Forests are located receive 25% of these payments.

Parameter - A fixed limit or boundary.

Planning Unit - A specific portion of a National Forest that is characterized by a particular pattern of land use or topography. The area is defined so a planning team can envision or predict the cause - effect relationship of management alternatives.

Prescriptions - An instruction for the management of a particular resource or area.

Resource - Anything which is useful for something, whether it be a commodity resource such as timber or minerals, or an amenity resource such as scenery. While all resources are not measured by money, they all have values that depend on the individual considering them.

Resource Allocation - Allocations are necessary when there are limitations on either the amount of resources available or on the way in which they can be used such that each separate activity cannot be performed in the most effective way conceivable. The resources are essentially divided among the competitors for use.

Resource Output Target - In this plan, it reflects the level of desired management of a particular resource.

Sediment - Any material transported by, suspended by, or deposited by water. Larger sized material, commonly called gravel, is a necessary material for salmon spawning redds; smaller sized material, commonly called sand or silt, damages salmon spawning redds.

Seral Vegetation - Refers to the vegetation that occupies a site following disturbance. This vegetation will not reproduce itself without continued disturbance.

Slusher System - A system for evaluating wilderness quality.

Wilderness - An area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled (unchanged) by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

Yarding - The operation of hauling timber from the stump to a collecting point.

